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University Outdoor Orientation Programs and Their Distance to Public Land

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Abstract

Many universities encourage students to get outside as much as possible. Getting outside and participating in outdoor orientation programs has shown to be beneficial for student's physical and mental health as well as allowing students to participate outdoors to better understand the natural world. This project documents the locations of 4-year universities and their proximity to U.S. public and federal lands. By using a research study that has taken a "census" of various orientation programs at 4-year universities, I can document not only the universities that provide these programs, but also show their distances to lands in which the programs can utilize for outdoor recreation.

Methods

For this map, my client wanted a map showing the distances from universities to U.S. public land that could be used for outdoor orientation programs. I began by differentiating public vs. private universities from the data gathered by my client. Then I manipulated data from the ArcGIS online database to portray U.S. federal lands. Both maps use the same data gathered from my client and the various universities that have outdoor orientation programs. The data for U.S. federal lands and recreational parks were gathered from the ArcGIS online database and the ESRI database.

US Parks and Federal Lands

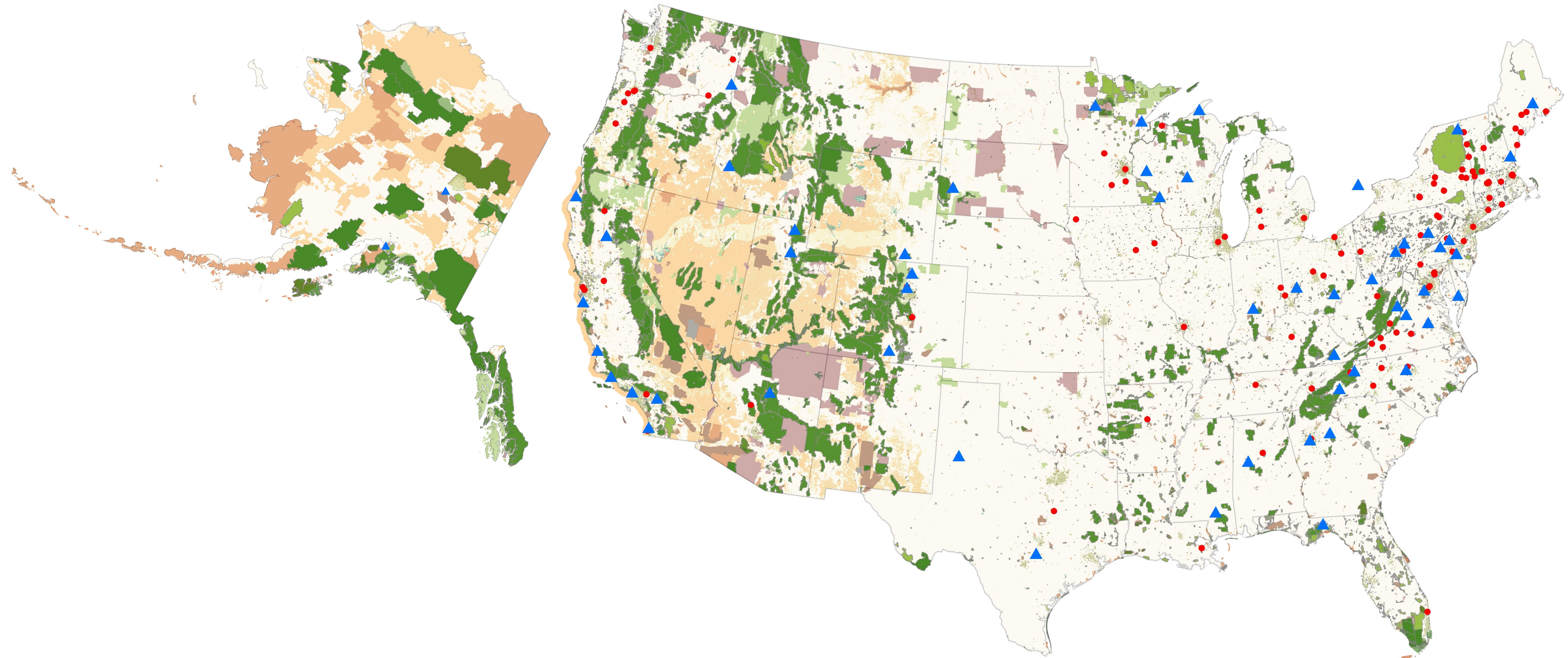


Table 1—Table portrays private and public schools within Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin that are within 1 mile to available public land.

<u>Public College</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Distance (Meters)</u>	<u>Land Type</u>
Michigan Technological University	Michigan	1477.36	National Park
University of Minnesota - Duluth	Minnesota	593.14	Local Park
University of Wisconsin - Steven's Point	Wisconsin	1298.75	Local Park
University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse	Wisconsin	635.2	Local Park
Univerity of Wisconsin - Stout	Wisconsin	896.11	Local Park
<u>Private College</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Distance (Meters)</u>	<u>Land Type</u>
Carleton University	Minnesota	460.55	Local Park
Saint Scholastica University	Minnesota	1040.89	Local Park
Macalester University	Minnesota	287.12	Local Park

▲ Public University

● Private University

■ National Park or Forest

■ State Park or Forest

■ County Park

■ Regional Park

■ Local Park

■ Forest Service

■ Department of Defense

■ Bureau of Land Management

■ Fish and Wildlife Service

■ National Park Service

■ Bureau of Indian Affairs

■ Bureau of Reclamation

■ Other Agencies (NASA, DOE, DOT, DOP, TVA...)